

**Amendments to the Specification**

At page 1, please delete the text for the existing title and substitute the following text therefor:

**--SURGICAL SUTURE NEEDLE--**

At page 1, before the section entitled "Technical Field", please insert the following paragraph:

**--Cross Reference to Related Application**

This application claims the benefits of and priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/396,940 entitled "SURGICAL SE NEEDLE" which was filed on July 17, 2002, the entire contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference herein.--

At page 1, please replace the paragraph following the section entitled "Technical Field" with the following paragraph:

--The present disclosure relates to a surgical suturing needle for suturing cutaneous and subcutaneous tissue, and in particular, relates to a surgical needle having a ~~multifaceted~~ multifaceted penetrating needle end characterized by enhanced penetrability and needle hardness.--

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6 with the following paragraph:

-- With continued reference to FIGS. 1 and 2, needle body 12 defines central shaft 18 which is preferably rectangular in cross-section defining a height "H" (corresponding to an x-

dimension) and a width "W" (corresponding to a ~~y-dimension~~ z-dimension) as best depicted in FIG. 2. The ratio of the dimensions of the height "H" to width "W", i.e., "H"/"W" is preferably less than 1.1/1, preferably about 1.06/1 although other ratios are also contemplated. Although a greater "H"/"W" ratio (i.e., a more pronounced rectangular cross-section) may increase the strength of central shaft 18, the reduced ratio of 1.1/1 or less is more desirable. Specifically, the cross-section of central shaft 18 is easier to handle by the surgeon and may be more easily manipulated by a needle holder, e.g., needle forceps. Central shaft 18 may also be square in cross-section or alternatively rounded.--

Please replace the exiting Abstract with the following paragraph:

--A surgical needle includes an elongated needle body defining a longitudinal axis. The surgical needle has a first end for attachment to a suture and a second needled end for penetrating tissue. The needled end includes lower and upper opposed surfaces and a pair of side surfaces extending between the lower and upper surfaces and being contiguous therewith. The upper surface and the side surfaces extend to a pointed tip. The lower surface extends to a cutting edge, which is defined at the intersection of the sides surfaces and proximal of the pointed tip. The cutting edge extends in oblique relation relative to the longitudinal axis and terminating at the pointed tip.--